

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10-15 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff (US Patent 5,764,836) and Hung (US Patent 6,926,450) and rejected claim 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff and Hung and further in view of Tabuchi (US Patent 5,757,999). Claims 1-7 and 9-15 remain at issue.

The Art Rejection

The claims are directed to a cylindrical shaped connector sleeve defining a receptacle having a first opening located at a first end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve and a second opening located at a second opposite end of the cylindrical shaped connector sleeve. The first opening is configured to receive the silicon bench and ferrule. The second opening is configured to receive a plug-in connector. The optical fibers in the ferrule and the plug-in connector are optically aligned within the cylindrical sleeve.

The Examiner has indicated that certain claims of the present invention are obvious over the combination of Roff and Hung. The applicant strongly disagrees. The Examiner has failed to demonstrate a prima facie case of obviousness.

The sleeve 301 of Roff, while cylindrically shaped, accommodates only the bore 101 of a ferrule 100. See Figure 1 and Column 3, lines 55-57. Roff specifically teaches that the sleeve 301 does not accommodate or receive either a silicon bench or a plug-in connector. This is clearly evident in Fig. 4. Roff therefore *teaches away* from the present invention as claimed.

In the rejection, the Examiner states that the "*Hung reference explicitly teaches an optical transmission connection device utilizing a cylindrical sleeve configured to accommodate the optoelectronic bench and ferrule...*" (emphasis added in bold). The Examiner, however, fails to mention where this explicit teaching is in the Hung reference. A review of the Hung indicates that the Examiner's statement is completely false. There is absolutely no mention or teaching whatsoever of using a silicon bench or ferrule with the Hung invention.

Hung is directed to an optical connector. The optical connector as shown in Figures 8 through 10 includes a cylindrical shroud 50 having a cylindrical first section 51 which defines a bore 54, a second section 52 at the bottom of the first section, and a third section 53. Flanges 60 are provided around the outside of the bottom portion of the shroud 50. The most relevant teaching of the Hung reference include:

(i) the bore 54 has diameter to allow an optical fiber connector to fit therein. See column 4, lines 23-24;

(ii) the cylinder 53 includes a longitudinal hole 59 with an optical fiber 511 fitted therein. See column 4, lines 34-35; and

(iii) the flanges 60 provided are used for fastening a laser diode or light detection element to the shroud 50. See column 4, lines 56-57.

Therefore, Hung teaches (i) the bore 54 at one end of the connector is used to receive an optical fiber connector; and (ii) flanges 60 located on the opposite end of the connector for attaching a laser diode or light detector to the connector. The optical component (either a diode or detector) of Hung is therefore attached to the exterior of the housing using flanges 60. Hung therefore actually *teaches away* from the present invention, which specifically states that the silicon bench and ferrule are contained within a cylindrical shaped connector sleeve.

In constructing the rejection, the Examiner has thus (i) misconstrued the actually teaching of the Hung reference; and then (ii) combined two references that actually teach away from the present invention to find the present invention obvious. Since neither reference, whether properly combined or not, teach a cylindrical connector sleeve configured to house an optical bench, ferrule and plug-in connector, the Examiner has failed to show a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Lastly, even if it were proper to combine Roff and Hung, it still would not result in the present invention as claimed. Roff teaches a cylindrically shaped connector that accommodates only the bore of a ferrule. Hung teaches a connector with flanges to externally attach an optical component. Accordingly, the proposed combination would result in the

cylinder shaped connector of Roff with the flanges of Hung. The combination would not teach the present invention, which is directed to a cylindrical shaped connector sleeve configured to optically align a silicon bench, ferrule, and plug in connector.

Since neither Roff or Hung, either alone or in combination, teach the present invention, the claims are now allowable.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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